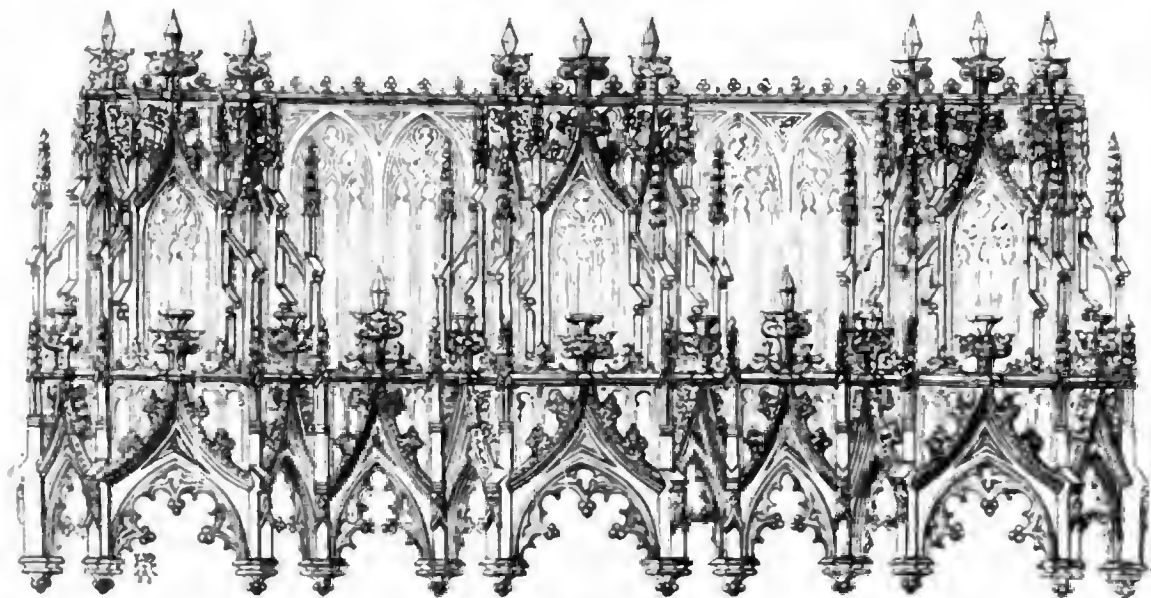
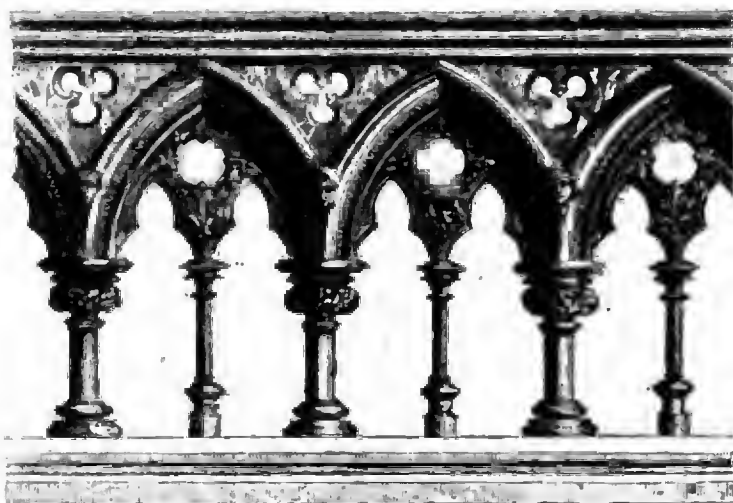


MODERN CARVINGS.



CANOPY AT ELVASTON CASTLE.



ALTAR RAIL, CHRIST CHURCH, ENDELL-STREET.

MODERN CARVINGS.

THE accompanying illustrations of wood-carving recently executed in England, will be interesting to those of our readers who are watching the progress of taste and consistency in ecclesiastical decorations. One specimen represents the altar-rail, 2 feet 3 inches high, and 20 feet long, recently executed in oak by Mr. W. G. Rogers, from the design of his son, for Christ Church, Endell-street. The style which has been adopted for its fabrication, viz., the early English—a style in which modern works of a similar nature are rarely found to be successful—makes it form part of the edifice which its introduction adorns.

The other example is a repetition of an elaborate Gothic canopy, brought from Nuremberg some years back, and now in the possession of the Earl of Harrington, for whose magnificent castle at Elvaston the accompanying work was required. It is about 5 feet 6 inches wide, and divided into three principal compartments, which are intended to surmount figures of mediæval character, while its minute parts are crowded with a pro-

fusion of crockets and pinnacles. Among the chief merits of the design, however, may be mentioned the harmony which exists between the boldness of the more prominent details and the faint character of the enriched background. We are indebted to our excellent contemporary, the *Art-Union Journal*, for these illustrations.

CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE-PROOF STRONG-ROOMS.

THE difficulty of constructing an efficient fire-proof room for the preservation of papers is considerable, the need for ventilation warring with the necessity of being inaccessible to fire. The trustees of the Bridgewater Estate have recently constructed at Hulme, Manchester, a room of this sort, at a cost of about 400*l.*, concerning which a correspondent has sent us some particulars.—A back parlour has been gutted for the purpose, and a safe of the dimensions of five yards square has been built, from the ground, of fire-proof bricks and cement, the roof being composed of the same materials and supported by three arches

of iron. The wall is formed of two very strong fire-proof shells, the space between them all round being filled with a non-conducting substance. The entrance is down a flight of several steps. The door-jambs, lintel, and threshold, are of solid iron, clamped, or built in by long flange-like projections, at three points on each side, to the main wall of the building, so as to be immovable. The door consists of three parts—the fraud-proof plate, the lock-case, and the fire-proof chest, which is filled with a patent composition which at a certain temperature becomes steam, finds entrance to the safe, and, saturating the papers, prevents them from firing. The bolts are fourteen in number, five on each side, two at the top and two at the bottom. The whole door turns upon thick iron pivots springing from the top and bottom, and working in sockets, cavities in the lintel, and threshold of the door. As thorough ventilation is necessary for the preservation of deeds, papers, &c., channels for the passage of air are prepared in the room, and a ventilator provided at the top; but this very necessary arrangement to some extent defeats, as we have said, the purpose of the trus-